

Minority Health Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2007

Virginia Department of Health – 1st Floor Conference Room – 109 Governor Street, Richmond.

Member Attendees: Baxter Harrington, MS, David Simmons, MSN, RN, CNN, Lucie Ferguson, PhD, MPD, RN, Gloria Addo-Ayensu M.D., M.P.H., Gail Jennings and Jane Cabarrus

Absentees: Paul Puryear, PhD – Co-Chair, Michael Pyles, PhD, Co-Chair, Annette Holmes, Judy Anderson and Rudolph Wilson, PhD.

OMHPHP Staff: Dr. Michael Royster, Karen E. Reed, Cynthia Beadle and Ellen McCutcheon

Welcome: Baxter Harrington

Mr. Harrington commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Adoption of Agenda – MHAC Members

The order of Fatima Sharif and Joseph Hilbert presentations were switched. The agenda was then adopted.

Approval of Minutes from July 10, 2007 – MHAC Members

Minutes were approved. Approved minutes will be posted on OMH and Town Hall websites.

Update on Office of Minority Health and Public Health Policy (OMHPHP) Initiatives – Dr. Michael Royster

Dr. Royster began by discussing OMHPHP vision and mission statement and initiatives. He indicated OMHPHP was currently developing a strategic plan for the office. This involves restructure of OMHPHP which includes additional staffing.

- The OMHPHP will provide public education and awareness presentations, both internally and externally to identify health inequities within a social justice framework.
- Dr. Royster informed the committee that the State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), a telephone interview survey conducted with a random selection of adults statewide, will include two new modules related to race and its impact on health and behaviors.
- Additionally, Dr. Royster shared that the local health districts along with the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) and other like minded organizations would be promoting town hall meeting to discuss health inequities.

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- The health districts would facilitate of this project. Several committee members expressed concerns about available avenues for their ideas and input to the Townhall Meeting process. Dr. Royster informed them that any input provided would be welcomed.
- Dr. Royster encouraged committee members to share information about the PBS television special in January 2008, “Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?” regarding health inequities & disparities.
- Dr. Royster reiterated that the OMHPHP has submitted a grant to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for funding to develop a statewide strategic plan around health inequities within a social justice framework. Award recipients will be notified by November 15, 2007.

MHAC Members Discussion:

- Lucie Ferguson requested that the OMHPHP organizational chart include a dotted-line relationship to MHAC. Dr. Royster agreed that showing the OMHPHP’s relationship with MHAC was important.
- Jane Cabarrus expressed interest in collaborating with the Eastern Shore Health District in promoting the Town hall meetings.
- Baxter Harrington suggested that Jane Cabarrus provide written input on the best practices/methods to promote Town hall meetings on the Eastern Shore based on her experience with the population. This information could serve as an additional resource in planning and marketing Town hall meetings.
- Based on the OMHPHP’s name change, committee members discussed the merits of changing the MHAC name to reflect a broader health equity focus. After a brief discussion of MHAC’s mission and focus, the committee members decided that a name change was not necessary.

2008 Virginia General Assembly update: Joseph Hilbert

Joseph Hilbert, Executive Advisor to the Commissioner of Health, and Legislative Liaison for VDH provided a brief synopsis of ways in which the MHAC could fulfill its role as an advisory committee to the Commission. Mr. Hilbert provided an overview of the Legislative process.

- He provided a brief demonstration of navigating Virginia’s Legislative web site. He indicated that most legislation impacting the Virginia Department of Health would be listed under Code 32.1 or 32.5.

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- Furthermore, he provided the timeline for advisory committee's submission of legislative and budget proposals to the Commissioner. Recommendations to the Commissioner should be submitted by June of the current year for the next fiscal year.
- Mr. Hilbert indicated proposals that contain thorough analysis and sound research to support the proposals have a greater opportunity for support by the Commissioner's office. Mr. Hilbert indicated that he is available upon request to provide technical assistance to MHAC.

Cultural Linguistic Appropriate Services Resources – Fatima Sharif

Ms. Sharif, CLAS Act Coordinator in the Office of Minority Health & Public Health Policy, provided an overview of Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Health Care Services (CLAS) program. Major presentation highlights were:

- Federal guidelines and laws related to providing language services.
- Capacity building for CLAS Act within VDH and the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- CLAS Act Website – CLASActVirginia.org - is a resource guide for health providers working with culturally and linguistically diverse populations.
- Overview of the CLAS Act website and web-based resource directory with a vast amount of service resources. Some of these resources include language service programs, links to thousands of translated documents, multicultural health and human services programs.

State Offices of Minority Health - Resources Report — Lucie Ferguson

Ms. Ferguson reported on her review of other states' Office of Minority Health and Health Equity related websites. New Jersey had a comprehensive strategic plan. North Carolina was very informative. It included a disparities report card by statistics and race and a disparities fact sheet. Also, she reported that the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded a report on Addressing Health disparities on community settings with a focus on best practices in community-based approaches ending disparities in health care. However, she was not able to locate a state with any funding available. Ms. Ferguson did not review each states web site.

New Business/Announcements

Future Speakers for MHAC Meetings:

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In view of the presentations conducted and the vast array of information and resources available, the committee agreed to invite guest speakers representing various programs related to minority health to future meetings to enhance the committee's education and awareness regarding initiatives within VDH as a whole.

Speakers' suggestions thus far include information on "Every Women's Life" Program, Programs administered by VDH, Office of Family Health Services, Chronic Disease and Disease Prevention. MHAC will identify desired speakers/topic and OMHPHP will secure speaker for meeting.

Special Meeting to understand "State of Minority Health in Virginia"

- Additionally, MHAC members expressed a desire for Dr. Michael Royster to present on "The State of Minority Health in Virginia"
- A tentative date of December 11, 2007 from 11:00 am – 2:00pm.
- Following the presentation, MHAC would explore direction for future action.
- MHAC would extend an invitation to the Virginia Black Caucus and other organizations of interest.
- Mr. Harrington will draft letter to invite a representative from the Black Caucus to attend the December meeting.
- MHAC will forward letter to OMHPHP to send.

Next Action Steps

- Prepare a MHAC project proposal, develop funding packet to prepare for submission to Commissioner for 2008.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Baxter Harrington shared information on the new MOTTEP of Richmond website: www.mottepofrichmond.org
- Summit: Richmond Regional Summit on Preventing Infant Deaths, Oct. 22-23, 2007. Information on conference is linked to OMH events page: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/healthpolicy/minorityhealth/events.htm>

OMHPHP items:

- OMHPHP requested current MHAC members to update and submit resume and or CV including organization's affiliation as to best understand the reach of the MHAC membership. This information will enhance grants language, etc.
- OMHPHP requested MHAC members to identify potential MHAC committee member's names that can be forwarded to the Commissioner for consideration.

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Public Comment

None

Special Meeting: State of Minority Health in Virginia
December 11, 2007

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Note: Location State Corporation Commission Building
(Across the street from the VDH building)
3rd floor Conference room
1300 E. Main Street
Richmond, VA

MHAC Scheduled 2008 Quarterly Meeting Dates

- January 8, 2008
- April 8, 2008
- July 8, 2008
- October 14, 2008
- December 9, 2008 (will be decided at 10/14/2008 meeting)

Meeting location/time:

Mezzanine Level Conference Room
Virginia Department of Health James Madison Building
109 Governor Street
Richmond, VA

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

For questions please contact: Cynthia Beadle, Minority Health Specialist 804-864-7427 Cindi.Beadle@vdh.virginia.gov

Minutes prepared by: Ellen McCutcheon/Cynthia Beadle
Minutes submitted by: Baxter Harrington, MHAC Facilitator